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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,825	01/30/2002	Roderick John Scott	0623.1160001/LBB/GLL	2437
26191	7590	03/11/2004	EXAMINER BAUM, STUART F	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 3300 DAIN RAUSCHER PLAZA 60 SOUTH SIXTH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			ART UNIT 1638	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,825

Applicant(s)

SCOTT, RODERICK JOHN

Examiner

Stuart F. Baum

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I-III. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18 and 35-36, drawn to a method for the production of modified endosperm comprising transforming a plant with a promoter that expresses in the female or male germ line and/or gametes operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide capable of modulating genomic imprinting and altering the degree of methylation of a nucleic acid, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

Groups I-III are drawn to each of the nucleic acid molecules listed in claim 5. Group I to histone deacetylase; Group II to methyl cytosine binding protein; and Group III to Sin 3.

Claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36 link(s) inventions I-III. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the

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instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

IV-V. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18 and 35-36, drawn to a method for the production of modified endosperm comprising transforming a plant with a promoter that expresses in the female or male germ line and/or gametes operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide capable of modulating genomic imprinting and altering the degree of methylation of a nucleic acid, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

Groups IV-V are drawn to each of the nucleic acid molecules listed in claim 6. Group IV to FIE; and Group V to FIS.

Claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36 link(s) inventions IV-V. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C.

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121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

VI-IX. Claims 1-4, 7-18 and 35-36, drawn to a method for the production of modified endosperm comprising transforming a plant with a promoter that expresses in the female or male germ line and/or gametes operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide capable of modulating genomic imprinting and altering the degree of methylation of a nucleic acid, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

Groups VI-IX are drawn to each of the nucleic acid molecules listed in claim 17. Group VI to Methylase 1; Group VII to Methylase 1-like enzyme; Group VIII to Methylase 2; and Group IX to Chromomethylase of Arabidopsis.

Claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36 link(s) inventions VI-IX. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-4, 7-16, 18 and 35-36. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C.

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121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

X. Claims 1-4, 7-16, 18-19 and 35-36, drawn to a method for the production of modified endosperm comprising transforming a plant with a promoter that expresses in the female or male germ line and/or gametes operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a de-methylating enzyme such as de-methylase capable of modulating genomic imprinting and altering the degree of methylation of a nucleic acid, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

XI. Claims 20-22, drawn to a method as claim in 18 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is in antisense orientation, classified in class 800, subclass 285 for example.

XII. Claims 20-22, drawn to a method as claim in 18 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a ribozyme, classified in class 800, subclass 285 for example.

XIII. Claims 23-34, 38-39, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule whose expression is capable of altering the degree of methylation of a nucleic acid, and vector comprising therewith, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1 for example.

2. Inventions I-X are distinct from each other. Applicant is reminded that nucleotide sequences either encoding different proteins or specifying specific expression patterns are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another, as are different

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proteins structurally distinct chemical compounds and unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute **independent and distinct** inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434). This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide and amino acid sequence is not a member of a single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

3. Inventions I-X, XII-XIII and Invention XI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are distinct from each other because the starting material, method steps and end products are distinct from each other. It is recognized in the art, that nucleic acid molecules in antisense orientation are used to down-regulate the expression or reduce the activity of a specific protein whereas over-expressing a nucleic acid molecule in sense orientation is used to upregulate or increase the activity of a specific protein. The two different sequences, i.e., antisense and sense, utilize different starting materials and method steps and therefore require an independent search and examination.

4. Inventions I-XI, XIII and Invention XII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are distinct one from the other because the starting material,

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method steps and end products are distinct. An example of a divergent starting material, and method step is using a nucleic acid sequence encoding a ribozyme to down-regulate the expression of an endogenous gene.

5. Inventions I-XII and Invention XIII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the nucleic acid sequences of Invention XIII can be used in hybridization reactions.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the literature and sequence searches required for each of the Groups are not required for another of the Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

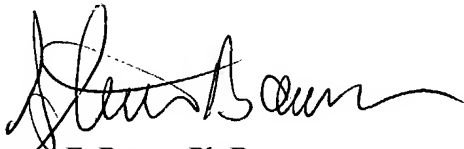
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stuart F. Baum whose telephone number is 571-272-0792. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on 571-272-0804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart F. Baum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart F. Baum Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
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March 5, 2004